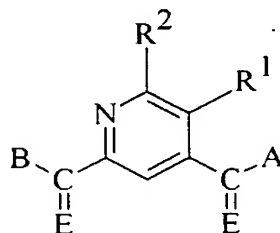


ABSTRACT

Selective MMP-13 inhibitors are pyridine derivatives of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently are hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl,

C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl, NO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, CN, or CF<sub>3</sub>;

E is independently O or S;

A and B independently are OR<sup>4</sup> or NR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> independently are H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkynyl,

(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> aryl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> cycloalkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub> heteroaryl, or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> when

taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3- to 8-membered ring containing carbon atoms and optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NH, and optionally substituted or unsubstituted;

n is an integer of from 0 to 6.